

REMARKS

As of the filing of the present reply, claims 1-73 were pending in the above-identified US Patent Application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner required that Applicants make an election under 35 USC §121 between claims 1-25, 59 and 63 (Invention I), claims 26-37, 60, 64 and 66-69 (Invention II), and claims 38-58, 61, 62, 65, and 70-73 (Invention III). In the present reply, Applicants have taken the opportunity to review and amend the specification to provide consistency of terminology, address typographical matters, and otherwise address potential issues under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect without traverse to prosecute the claims of Invention I on the merits. In so doing, Applicants note that claims 58, 59 and 62 depend from independent claims 1 and 15 of Invention I, and should therefore also be grouped and examined as claims of Invention I.

Application No. 10/677,674
Technology Center 3769
Reply dated November 10, 2008
In Response to Office Action dated October 8, 2008

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter
now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,



The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read "Gary M. Hartman" with a horizontal line through the "Hartman" portion.

Gary M. Hartman
Reg. No. 3,898

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Hartman & Hartman, P.C.
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
TEL.: (219) 462-4999
FAX: (219) 464-1166